(c) whether Government had set up a target of part-financing 61,227 projects and generating 6,12,245 jobs in 600 odd districts of the country during 2008-09;

(d) whether at end of March 2009, it could fund only 36,287 project, giving work to 3,62,870 people; and

(e) the steps being taken to remove these hurdles so that target is achieved in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (d) As Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit linked subsidy programme and banks finance as much as 60% of the project cost after assessment of their viability, the target in terms of number of projects, and employment likely to be generated are only estimated figures. Actual achievement would depend among various factors, on the nature, cost and location of projects/units.

Implementation guidelines of PMEGP could be issued in September 2008 after obtaining approval of the competent authority in August 2008. Preliminary activities of implementation like publicity, workshops, distribution of targets, etc. took some time as it involved coordination by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) with State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs) of State Governments and about 850 nodal branches as well as 12000 financing bank branches spread across the country. Imposition of model code conduct of General Elections, elections in six States in 2008, and delay in constitution of District Level Task Force (DLTF) by concerned State Governments also resulted in less availability of time for actual implementation of the programme.

Despite the constraints in implementation of PMEGP mentioned above, a total of 36,281 projects could be got sanctioned by banks and loans could actually be disbursed in 25507 cases in 2008-09 for creation of estimated employment opportunities for 2.55 lakh persons.

(e) For improved implementation of PMEGP and achieving the targets during 2009-10, all Chief Ministers have been requested to instruct the State implementing agencies, namely, DICs, KVIBs and Banks to put in more concerted efforts in improving the performance of PMEGP. Regular review meetings are also being undertaken by National Level Monitoring Committee, KVIC and others including communication of district level targets well in advance by KVIC, etc. Project profiles of more than 300 model projects have been made available in the websites namely *www.kvic.org.in* and *www.pmegp.in* and around 515 training centres across the country have been accredited by KVIC for imparting EDP training to the PMEGP beneficiaries for facilitating the offtake of bank finance with margin money subsidy.

Proposal to award 'Khadi Production Certificate' to weavers

1786. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to award 'Khadi Production Certificate' to weavers;

(b) whether it is a fact that poor weavers of the country are committing suicide whereas organizations having Khadi Production Certificate are gaining day by day;

(c) whether Government is planning to implement various welfare measures including awarding of 'Khadi Production Certificate' to weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) Certificate for khadi production is issued by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to the institutions which are societies, cooperatives or trusts registered under relevant Acts, enlisted with KVIC and engaged in Khadi and village industries activities. The institutions have to abide by the guidelines issued by KVIC time to time to carry out production and sales activities.

(b) No incidence of suicide of khadi weavers has been reported so far. In khadi and village industries sector weavers are generally registered with khadi institutions and are engaged in production of khadi. The spinners and weavers usually work from their dwelling units using simple tools and technology and within the time available with them alongwith other livelihood/household activities. The wages are paid by the institution concerned on the basis of cost chart prescribed by the Central Certification Committee of KVIC. The remuneration is paid on piece work basis with due care on efficient utilization of manpower as well as ensuring fair wages.

(c) and (d) The Government through KVIC has been implementing a welfare scheme for the khadi artisans including khadi weavers, namely, "Khadi Karigar Janashree Bima Yojana" with effect from 2003-04. The Scheme was formulated in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) with annual premium of Rs.200/- per beneficiary initially. The Commission upon negotiation with LIC could reduce the premium to Rs.100/- with effect from 2005-06 which is shared by the Central Government (from Social Security Fund), Khadi Institution, Khadi Artisan and KVIC. The compensation under the Scheme is Rs.30,000 on natural death, Rs.75,000 on accidental death, Rs.75,000 in case of full permanent disability due to accident and Rs.37,500 for part permanent disability due to accident. As an *'add-on'* benefit without any additional premium, two school going children of insured artisans studying in Class Nine to Twelve are eligible for a scholarship of Rs.100/- each per month.

Besides, 21 State Level Artisans' Welfare Fund Trusts (AWTF) have been established for the welfare of khadi artisans. The fund available with these trusts is to be utilised by the artisans for education of their children, medical expenses and marriage expenses in the family of artisans, etc.